



**ARIZONA CATHOLIC CONFERENCE**  
DIOCESE OF GALLUP • DIOCESE OF PHOENIX • DIOCESE OF TUCSON  
HOLY PROTECTION OF MARY BYZANTINE CATHOLIC EPARCHY OF PHOENIX

**Bishops of the Arizona Catholic Conference Statement  
on Governor Ducey Signing Bill to Ban Abortions at 15-Weeks Gestation into Law**

The Bishops of the Arizona Catholic Conference (ACC) are grateful that Governor Doug Ducey has signed into law legislation (SB 1164) that is designed to further protect women and their unborn children.

Depending upon the outcome of litigation currently before the U.S. Supreme Court, there is a very good chance that Arizona will have the opportunity to also protect life at 15-weeks gestation.

Protecting life at this stage of development is important. Well before 15 weeks, the preborn baby already takes on “human form” in all relevant aspects. In fact, by 12 weeks of gestational age she can already open and close fingers, make sucking motions, and sense stimulation from outside the womb. Perhaps because of these reasons, the 15-week ban in SB 1164 is much more in line with the rest of the world in terms of abortion laws.

Finally, it is recognized by the abortion industry that women seeking abortions do so because of stressful circumstances, financial pressure, and relationship discord. This is a tragedy, and it is the reason why we continue to advocate for solutions to these problems other than the taking of an innocent life through abortion.

For these reasons, the ACC appreciates Senator Nancy Barto for sponsoring SB 1164 and Governor Doug Ducey for signing it into law!

Most Rev. Eduardo A. Nevares  
Auxiliary Bishop of Phoenix

Most Rev. Thomas J. Olmsted  
Bishop of Phoenix

Most Rev. James S. Wall  
Bishop of Gallup

Most Rev. Edward J. Weisenburger  
Bishop of Tucson